

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed on April 6, 2005 by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Examiner continued to allow claims 1-16 and continued to reject claims 23-28. Claims 23-28 have been cancelled by way of this response. After entry of this response, claims 1-16 remain in the above-identified patent application. The foregoing amendments are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action mailed on April 6, 2006 and believed to place the application in a condition of allowance.

I. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 23 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 4,143,369 as issued to Ayers on March 6, 1979 (hereinafter referred to as "Ayers") in combination with U.S. patent no. 6,107,920 as issued to Eberhardt et al on August 22, 2000 (hereinafter referred to as "Eberhardt") or U.S. patent no. 6,069,564 as issued to Hatano et al on May 30, 2000 (hereinafter referred to as "Hatano"). In addition, the Examiner rejected claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayers in combination with Eberhardt or Hatano in combination with U.S. patent no. 3,805,265 as issued to Lester on April 16, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "Lester"). Furthermore, the Examiner rejected claim 28 as being unpatentable over Ayers in combination with Eberhardt or Hatano in combination with U.S. patent no. 4,636,950 as issued to Caswell et al on January 13, 1987 (hereinafter referred to as "Caswell"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. However, Applicant has cancelled claims 23-28 in order to expedite allowance of claims 1-16 and reserves the right to seek patent protection for these cancelled claims in a separate patent application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance and the Applicant therefore earnestly requests such allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss the foregoing response, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (480) 385-5060.

II. CONCLUSION

If for some reason Applicant have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated 07/06/05

Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, P.C.
Customer No. 29906



Timothy J. Lorenz
Registration No. 41,954